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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant   :   Mark Jacob Ebling, Edwin Arturo Heredia,
                    Sithampara Niranjan, Chia-Yuan Teng,
                    Mehmet Kemal Ozkan and Timothy William Saeger

Filed   :   Herewith

For   :   SYSTEM FOR FORMATTING AND PROCESSING
                    MULTIMEDIA PROGRAM DATA AND PROGRAM
                    GUIDE INFORMATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In the US national phase application of PCT/US98/21556 filed herewith, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims (which are annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report) as indicated below:

1.(AMENDED) Apparatus for decoding packetized program information from a first source to provide data content of a program, comprising:

means for identifying [(22,60)] ancillary information in said packetized program information, said ancillary information including information describing a multimedia object associated with an image in said packetized program information, said multimedia object description information comprising,

(a) a location indicator [(610)] identifying a location of a multimedia object for use in acquiring said multimedia object, and

(b) a type indicator [(605)] identifying a multimedia object type for use in decoding said multimedia object; and

means for acquiring and decoding [(22, 30, 60)] said multimedia object using said multimedia object description information; and

means for formatting [(30, 37, 60)] said multimedia object for display.